

## REMARKS

### THE ALLOWED CLAIMS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claim 1-21 and 23-34. The following discussion addresses the remaining pending claims, i.e., claims 22, and 35-68.

### THE INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Pursuant to the Examiner's request in the Interview Summary attached to the Office Action under reply, a summary of the Examiner-initiated Interview held on November 7, 2005, is provided herein.

On November 7, 2005, the Examiner telephoned the undersigned attorney to discuss an Examiner's amendment for allowance. The Examiner and applicant's attorney discussed the Examiner's issue with the term "preventing" in claim 35 and alternative language such as --treating-- and --inhibiting-- was discussed. The undersigned attorney acknowledged the Examiner's issue with the term and stated that the term "preventing" could be changed to one of the two suggested terms after consultation with the applicant.

During the Interview, the Examiner also expressed uncertainty with respect to the dependency of claim 22. Because the undersigned attorney was in the process of preparing an Information Disclosure Statement for this case, the undersigned attorney requested that the Examiner issue an Office Action in lieu of an Examiner's Amendment and assured the Examiner that any issue with claim 22 would be properly addressed in the response to the Office Action.

As indicated in the Interview Summary attached to the Office Action under reply, no agreement was reached between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney.

### CLAIM 35

Although the Office Action under reply does not indicate a rejection for this claim, applicant has amended this claim to replace the word "preventing" with the word --inhibiting-- as suggested by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action. With this change, applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 35 and all claims depending from claim 35, i.e., claims 36-68.

### CLAIMS 22 AND 56

Claims 22 and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Office Action under reply, the Examiner expresses uncertainty that claims 22 and 56 should depend from claims 21 and 55, respectively. In response, the undersigned attorney can confirm that the dependency of these two claims is correct.

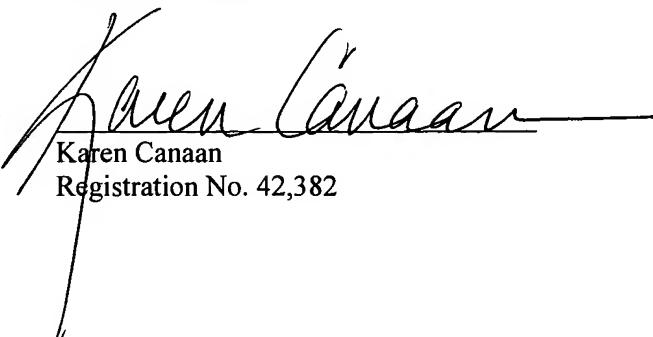
Directing the Examiner's attention to claims 1 and 35, there it is recited that the claimed composition and method includes providing a first crosslinkable component having  $m$  nucleophilic groups and a second crosslinkable component having  $n$  electrophilic groups...wherein the first and second crosslinkable components crosslink *in situ*; accordingly, it follows that the  $m$  nucleophilic groups react with the  $n$  electrophilic groups. Claims 21 and 55 both recite that the  $m$  nucleophilic groups are sulfhydryl groups and claims 22 and 56 both recite that the  $n$  electrophilic groups are sulfhydryl-reactive groups. Because sulfhydryl groups by their very nature react with sulfhydryl-reactive groups, it follows that claims 21, 22, 55, and 56 are in proper format and should not be amended. In light of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

#### CONCLUSION

With this paper, each of the Examiner's requests, concerns, and rejections have been fully addressed and overcome. Because there will be no outstanding issues for this matter upon entry of this paper, applicant respectfully request withdrawal of all objections and claim rejections and passage of this application to issue.

Any questions regarding this paper or the application in general may be addressed to the undersigned attorney at 650-251-7713 or canaan@reedpatent.com.

Respectfully submitted,

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